

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-28, 30-32, 37-39, 42, and 43 have been amended.

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Claims 44 and 45 have been added. Claims 18-45 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's argument, see Remarks, p. 12, filed 25 October 2007, with respect to whether Applicant's claim for priority Application No. 2001-227045, filed on July 27, 2001, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Thus, Applicant's claim for priority to the Japanese application is proper.

Reasons For Allowance

3. Claims 18-45 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent Claims 18 and 37 are allowable for the reasons stated in Applicant's Remarks, pp. 13-17, filed on 25 October 2007, except for Applicant's contention, see Remarks, pp. 15-16, that "one of ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to include Sano et al's protruding bodies in the bag 520 of Tomita's cuff". This argument is not persuasive for the reasons stated by the Examiner in the prior Office Action, p. 5, mailed on 25 July 2007, which is provided below:

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It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tomita's blood pressure cuff structure to have the structure of Sano's blood pressure cuff because Sano suggests that his blood pressure cuff can be used for objects other than a finger, in which an upper arm would be Such an object ("To measure a patient's blood pressure, one inserts the object to be measured (a finger, for example) and the length of the portion of cuff in contact with the object to be measured does not vary," see col. 2, ll. 17-21; "To measure a patient's blood pressure, one inserts the object to be measured (i.e., a finger) and compressed air is pumped into the chamber," see col. 2, ll. 54-57; and see col. 5, ll. 28-30 and 46-55). Nevertheless, both Tomita and Sano are cuffs that are used to measure blood pressure.

Examiner's position on this matter was also stated the "Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief", section 11, mailed on 06 June 2007.

Claims 19-36 and 38-45 are allowable because of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, to Claims 18 and 37.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navin Natnithithadha whose telephone number is (571) 272-4732. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II, can be reached on (571) 272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/NN/
Examiner, Art Unit 3735
11/13/2007

/Charles A. Marmor, II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3735